

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 172468  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:MBERRY:CJ  
APPROVED BY AF :WCHARR P  
AF/E:SHAMRICK  
S/S-O-JTHYDEN  
EUR/SOV:KBROWN

-----058078 080152Z /66

P R 080114Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
USINT BAGHDAD  
USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T STATE 172468

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PSNS, PEPR, ET, SU, TZ

SUBJECT: NYERERE TO PROMOTE ETHIO-SUDANESE ACCORD ON  
ERITREA AT OAU SUMMIT

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PAGE 02 STATE 172468

REF: DAR 2821

1. WE WELCOME NEWS THAT NYERERE HAS DECIDED TO GO TO  
KHARTOUM OAU MEETING IN ORDER TO INITIATE TALKS BETWEEN  
MENGISTU AND NIMEIRI. WE HAVE LONG FAVORED AFRICAN  
SOLUTIONS TO AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND WE PLEASED THAT

NYERERE IS WILLING TO BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THIS DELICATE PROBLEM.

2. OUR GENERAL VIEW IS THAT NO MILITARY SOLUTION POSSIBLE IN SITUATION LIKE THIS WHERE PEOPLE WITH DISTINCTIVE CULTURE AND IDENTITY ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE SOME DEGREE OF AUTONOMY AND WHERE YEARS OF CONFLICT HAVE ONLY REINFORCED THEIR DESIRE TO GAIN THEIR ENDS. ONE SIDE MAY ACHIEVE TEMPORARY MILITARY ADVANTAGE, BUT OTHER SIDE WILL THEN PUSH FOR GREATER ARMS BUILDUP. BEST SOLUTION APPEARS TO BE SOME TYPE OF FEDERATION PERMITTING EXPRESSION OF ERITREAN PERSONALITY AND GOALS. MENGISTU HAS UNDERTAKEN TO CORRECT SOME OF ERRORS MADE BY HAILE

SELASSIE AND WE HAVE HOPED HE WOULD CHOOSE TO DENOUNCE EMPEROR'S ABROGATION OF 1950 UN SPONSORED FEDERATION. WE FEEL THAT WITH ADDITIONAL GUARANTEES, 1950 UN RESOLUTION MIGHT BE BASIS FOR SOLUTION.

3. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SOVIET POSITION IS THAT THEY VERY HEAVILY COMMITTED TO ETHIOPIAN REGIME BUT ARE DOUBTFUL THAT MILITARY SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE IN ERITREA. THEIR PREFERENCE FOR MODERATE SOLUTION ALSO SEEMS TO BE SUGGESTED BY RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BEIRUT AT WHICH BOTH ELP AND EPLF LEADERS WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW SUGGESTED THAT THEY NOW WILLING TO NEGOTIATE

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WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS AND WOULD SEEK SELF-DETERMINATION RATHER THAN COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE. IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR THAT ELP AND EPLF HAVE REALLY STEPPED BACK FROM THEIR REPEATED FIRM DEMANDS FOR INDEPENDENCE BUT THEY AT LEAST SEEM READY TO TALK.

4. YOU MAY TELL NYERERE THAT WE ARE CONCERNED BY REPORTS THAT ETHIOPIAN GOVT CONDUCTED SEMINAR LAST WEEK FOR MILITARY OFFICERS AND DIPLOMATS AT WHICH THEME SEEMED TO BE THAT EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION HAD BEEN REJECTED AND ONLY MILITARY ACTION NOW POSSIBLE. WE HOPE NYERERE'S EFFORTS WILL BE ABLE TO COUNTER SUCH THINKING AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH SIDES TO RATIONALLY EXAMINE PROBLEMS.

5. WE APPRECIATE NYERERE'S TAKING US INTO HIS CONFIDENCE AND HOPE HE WILL CONTINUE ADVISE US OF HIS PROGRESS. HIS PRELIMINARY THINKING ABOUT A FORMULA TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT MAY BE RATHER CLOSER TO THE ETHIOPIAN THAN THE ERITREAN POSITION, UNLESS THE ETHIOPIANS CAN BE PERSUADED TO ADD SOME SUBSTANCE TO THEIR "NINE POINT PROPOSAL" FOR FEDERATION. THE NINE POINTS APPEAR TO OFFER ONLY VAGUE PROMISES AND HAVE NOT INCLUDED THOSE INDICATIONS OF

SEPARATE IDENTITY OR PARTIAL AUTONOMY WHICH WILL PROBABLY  
BE THE VERY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF THE ERITREANS. WE  
WILL BE PLEASED AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO PASS ON HIS IDEAS  
TO OUR ARAB FRIENDS AND ASSIST IN ANY OTHER WAYS WHICH  
COULD HELP BRING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN PRO-  
BLEM. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 172468  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY  
S/S-O:MACEURVORST  
-----080306 110143Z /62  
O 110133Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 172468

EXDIS, GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT STATE 172468 ACTION DAR ES SALAAM INFO ADDIS ABABA  
KHARTOUM CAIRO MOSCOW DAMASCUS FREETOWN JIDDA KUWAIT LAGOS  
LIBREVILLE SANA BAGHDAD HAVANA 8 JUL 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 172468

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PEPR, ET, SU, TZ, OAU  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014